(b) if so, when such decision was taken and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) In Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), the dependents of the employees who are declared medically unfit are provided employment on compassionate grounds in a phased manner, keeping in view the need, requirement, recruitment budget provision and other policy parameters.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Labour productivity in the Steel Sector

901. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labour productivity in the Indian Steel Sector is the lowest in the world;

(b) if so, the comparative details of labour productivity in the steel sector in selected countries;

(c) the reasons for low productivity in India; and

(d) the measures taken to raise productivity of labour in the Steel Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) International comparisons of labour productivity are of uncertain value on account of differences in technology used, capacity utilisation, level of automation, extent of outsourcing etc. In India, the labour productivity is low for the older generation plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd and Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. However, for the modern generation plants like Essar Steel Ltd, Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd and Ispat Industries Ltd, labour productivity is almost at

par with international standards. As per the Report of World Steel Dynamics, the comparative labour productivity in terms of man-hours per tonne shipped in selected countries as of April, 2001 is as under:

($ per metric tonne shipped)

USA	JAPAN	GERMANY	TIWAN	CHINA	INDIA
4.1	4.0	4.0	5.0	20.8	26.5

(d) Steel plants are taking various measures to increase labour productivity. These *inter-alia* include:

(i) Technical upgradation and modernisation of major steel plants.

(ii) Adoption of State of Art technology.

(iii) Hiving off non-performing assets and usage of latest information technology tools for production process control and automation.

(iv) Rationalising manpower through natural separations and operation of VR Scheme, modernising selected facilities, introducing Standard Operating Practices and Standard Maintenance Practices are some of the measures that have been taken to improve the labour productivity.

Practice of prostitution in some tribal communities

†902. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today prostitution is a common social practice in some tribal communities where the eldest daughter of the family is forced to enter in this profession;

(b) if so, the names of such tribal communities; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.